

# The Center Looks At Its Operating Budget

The 1952 music festival at the Plymouth Rock Center of Music and Drama was officially closed Sept. 15 at the final Board of Directors meeting. Blair McClosky, Executive Director, presided. Present were Paul Bittinger, Russell Eddy, Benj. Goodrich, Jr., Barbara McClosky, Anthony Pioppi and Orfeo Sgarzi.

Mr. McClosky reviewed the operating budget for 1952. For the first time in the Center's history the current budget balanced—remarkable, considering that ten shows were presented by a company of 80 artists on a total outlay of \$15,000. Mr. McClosky credited the success to three factors: careful allocation and supervision of funds, increased tuition, and increased box-office receipts.

McClosky also read a financial

statement prepared by Elbert Harvey who has been the unofficial financial council for the Center through the year. Mr. Harvey's report outlined the overall financial condition of the Center and pointed a way toward putting this music school on firm financial basis. Through the committee called the Friends of the Plymouth Rock Center whose members are Mr. Harvey, Mrs. Winthrop Coffin, Mrs. H. Gilbert Francke, Mrs.

George Putnam Metcalf, and Mrs. Carl Weyerhaeuser, the Center has received in the past three weeks gifts and pledges of almost \$3000. If the committee makes its goal of \$5,000, the Center will be able to eliminate past indebtedness and stage an intensive promotion campaign for the 1953 season.

McClosky has several new plans for next summer. One is the orchestra conductors' school which George Poinar and Paul Wagner have already begun to organize. There also is an opera workshop at the Center. This department would function separate from the major opera production schedule but would present several chamber operas during the season so younger students can get live stage experience in leading roles as well as in choruses.

## Art Course

Frank Rogers will have art courses at the Center and it is hoped this course will draw students nationally as well as locally. There will also be a course in choral conducting. The plan is to

establish a local chorus which could perform with the orchestra in one of its concerts.

One problem facing the Center now is the housing situation. The campus can accommodate about 80 students and staff, but enrollment next year is expected to exceed this number. It is hoped that members of the community who have spare rooms in their homes will rent them to the young musicians at the Center for the 8-week season next summer. Anyone with such a spare room should drop Blair McClosky a note.

A national advertising campaign and direct-mail solicitation of musicians in the leading orchestras, opera companies, and conservatories in the country will be carried on through the winter. With this behind it the 1953 season should justify the optimistic feeling that pervaded the final board meeting of 1952, the biggest year in local music history.

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